

PARI'S CHILDHOOD MEMORIES IN KHALED HOSSEINI'S *AND THE MOUNTAINS ECHOED*

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## Abstract

Childhood memories have characteristics, have a link to a phenomenon called infantile amnesia, and can affect someone afterwards, particularly in adulthood. This study aims to describe Pari's childhood memories depicted in *And the Mountains Echoed* novel and to reveal those childhood memories' impact on Pari. As the tools for data analysis, firstly concept of memory will be delivered as a base to underlie childhood memories. The theory of childhood memories by Mark L. Howe and Patrick Estrade will be used to analyse the data. The data of the study is taken from author's description and characters dialogue in *And the Mountains Echoed* novel which represent the childhood memories of Pari. The data is collected using library method and close reading technique. The analysis is presented using descriptive qualitative method. The result of analysis shows that Pari experiences infantile amnesia and her childhood memories are tend to be retained for a short period of time and rapidly decayed, are easily to be interfered, and can be categorized as autobiographical memories of child. At the beginning, childhood memories give negative impact on Pari. They brings her to a great confusion, it is because she is unable to recollect her own childhood memories. Finally, the childhood memories give positive impact on her, since she has seeked and found her big brother and her own roots by recollecting her childhood memories from another character.

**Keywords:** childhood memories, infantile amnesia, early memory development.

## INTRODUCTION

Khaled Hosseini is one of the novel writer whose the works loved by worldwide readers since his first novel debut *The Kite Runner* had been remaining over 100 weeks on the New York Times bestseller list. It gets lots of popular and critical awards, such as the South African Boeke Prize, *San Fransisco Chronicle* Best Book of the Year 2003, Barnes and Noble Discover Great New Writers Award, the ALA Notable Book, Alex Award, Literature to Life Award, the John Steinbeck Award, and nominated as 2012 Great Graphic Novels for Teens by the Young Adult Library Services Association. *Thousand Splendid Suns* followed the success of the first novel *The Kite Runner* and remained on New York bestseller list in an entire year of 2007. Also, it receives other achievements, such as Amazon's #1 book of the year in 2007, Book Sense Picks Highlights 2007, *Washington Post* Best Books of 2007, #1 Worldwide Bestselling title in 2008, *San Francisco Chronicle* Notables of 2007, *Time* Ten Best Books: Fiction, *BN.com* Top Ten, Booklist Editor's Choice 2007, and nominated for ALA's Best Book for Young Readers Award 2008. Those novels had been translated into many languages and are sold more than 38 million copies around the world.

*And The Mountains Echoed* published in 2013 is Hosseini's third novel. It is the winner of *Goodreads* Best Fiction of 2013 and now a longlist for the International

IMPAC Dublin Literary Award 2015. The story of this novel attracts most reader's impressions. Hosseini successfully creates a brand new touch in his story. Unlike his first two novels, *And The Mountains Echoed* involves multigenerational theme of love from each characters in the story. These characters solidify and affect the whole story, it because they are closely interrelated. *And the Mountains Echoed* tells about the family nurtures, includes the basic aspect such as love, take care, honor, and sacrifice for one another. These positive feelings and acts naturally incorporated into all family members. But occasionally, in a certain condition, a member of family do a betrayal. *And the Mountains Echoed* presents those complex things, makes its story lives when the readers discover the plot along the pages.

Time goes by, Pari does not remember her childhood memories and all the things related to her past life when she lives in Shadbagh, her hometown. Little Pari has received so much love and care from her new family. Wahdatis give their time to play and learn together with her. It makes Pari realizes that she does not want to fall in a deep lost and sadness any longer because she is being separated with her brother. Pari makes a psychological block. Thus childhood memories of her are buried. Unfortunately, these buried childhood memories are influencing Pari's adulthood, particularly the memories she has with her brother, Abdullah. Pari lost Abdullah existence who is fundamental to her. The

memories of Abdullah and her family have decayed and buried inside her memory as she grows up. Those memories are fragile and decline by the time she got older. This phenomenon has known as infantile amnesia. As Pari is grown up, she feels there is a wound inside herself. But Pari does not know who is that comprises her heartache. Hence childhood memories give impact on Pari's adulthood. The absence of Abdullah's role and the lost family in Shadbagh give her a confusion about her life and roots, particularly in the adulthood.

This study aims to describe Pari's childhood memories depicted in Khaled Hosseini's *And the Mountains Echoed* and to reveal the impact of childhood memories on Pari within the novel. The psychological approach is used to this study. It gives more concern on artistic value within the literary work, not a psychological study of mental illness nor subconscious mind. Also it concerns on the cognitive aspect of childhood memories. Eventhough it involves cognitive aspect, but it excludes numbers of medical study, such as neurobiology, trauma, or stress studies.

It includes the description of childhood memories depicted in the novel of *And the Mountains Echoed* and explanations about the impact of childhood memories on Pari. They are all hoped to be a valuable and excellent reading source for the readers. So the readers will acknowledge the topic about childhood memories widely and comprehensively. Furthermore, this study is expected to help the researchers who intend to develop the topic discussion afterwards.

### Concept of Memory as A Base of Childhood Memories

The term of memory itself as a professor of psychology at University of California, Michael S. Gazzaniga states that "memory is the capacity of the nervous system to acquire and retain usable skills and knowledge, allowing living organisms to benefit from experience" (Gazzaniga et al, 2007:252). Memory can also affect one's future life that it is believed as a reflection of one's experiences in the past. These claims have explained the important roles of memory in human life. To operate its function, the memory system generally works in three part of processes. They are encoding, storage, and retrieval. First, new information must be encoded before it is useful for the later usage. "When material is meaningful, fitting well with our prior knowledge, the code is quickly established and invariably effective" (Wingfield and Byrnes, 1981:7) so the new information will be coded well in the memory. But, If the new information gets less attention when it is being delivered, the code is difficult to be stored in the memory. The next process, well coded information is

retained in the storage, so that the information can be useful in the later retrieval. These encoding, storage, and retrieval processes so called as filing cabinet model (Foster, 2010:43). Thus, memory does not work to code and store information only, but the ability to retrieve the information is also an important process for the life (Foster, 2010:44). Memory system processes are simply demonstrated as follow.

### Theory of Childhood Memories

Childhood memories are part of every individual experiences. They can be defined as the recollections of individual past experiences during the period of being a child. These recollections are inherent of the mind that absolutely characterized by the depth and emotion, importantly they told an honesty of child's heart (Estrade, 2006:7). Mark L. Howe called the theory of childhood memories as early memories. Childhood is also known as early period of life. Hence childhood and early are such similar term in this study afterwards.

Childhood memories have characteristics and cannot be apart from the phenomenon of infantile amnesia. Infantile amnesia itself is an inability of adult to recollect their childhood events. This amnesia is not durable and can be experienced by most of children below the age of 6. The characteristics of childhood memories and its connection with infantile amnesia are explained as follow.

### 1. Childhood Memories Are Autobiographical Memories of Child

Childhood memories can be categorized as autobiographical memories during childhood. It is because children recollect the events and store them into the memory as personal experiences. During this period, children only interest about anything related to the self, thus every recollections they store in the memory are the personal past events that happened to them, eventhough they are unable to recognize the event specifically.

autobiographical memory, by definition, is memory for information and events pertaining to the self. Therefore, knowledge of the self as an independent entity with characteristics, thoughts, and actions that are separate and distinct from those of others is perhaps the minimum criterion for the existence of autobiographical memory. Without a clear recognition of an independent self, there can be no referent around which personally experienced events can be organized. Prior to articulation of the self, the infant will learn and remember, but these experiences cannot be recognized as specific events, coded with respect to time and place, that happened to a "me" (Howe,2000:89).

Actually children have gained and formed their memories since in the mother's belly. But it's their sensory and perceptual system they have still "lack the maturity to support encoding, storage, and retrieval of information from the environment" so that the "memories for early experiences would be absent, or at best, extremely impoverished" (Howe, 2000:4). From Howe's claim, it can be known that the basic encoding, storage, and retrieval processes intact since in the early period of life, but actually it works in limit. Hence, this immaturity of memory system needs to develop for years later as the child grows up.

## 2. Childhood Memories and Infantile Amnesia

The issue about infantile amnesia is a common phenomenon to be discussed in early memory development, it has an association with autobiographical memory in the childhood. Wetzler & Sweeney state that "[...] the number of childhood memories tend to increase with age, with many more experiences being recalled from later childhood years than from earlier years" (Howe, 2000:82). The emergence and development of autobiographical memory in early ages critically constructed through interchanges between adults and children. So, if there are no rehearsal stories are told by the closest family member to the children during the retention period of the memory development, these autobiographical memories would not retain for longer periods of time. Moreover, K. Nelson and Fivush (as cited in Howe, 2000:87) have claimed that "autobiographical memory starts and infantile amnesia dissipates only when children share their experiences with others linguistically". From their social interacting with the adults, children are able to store numerous information about their past.

## 3. Childhood Memories Tend to be Retained for Short Period of Time

Howe claims that "The information stored early in life tends to be retained for shorter periods of time [...]" (Howe, 2000:81). Other theorists have claim that autobiographical experiences in the early period of life were poorly encoded in the memory storage, rapidly decayed, and was extremely immature to retain information in the long term retention (Howe, 2000:84). Kohler as cited in Howe states that "several other theorists believed that changes in what was stored in memory was at the root of failures to remember early childhood experiences" (Howe, 2000:84). In addition, Howe suggests that "the neurophysiological immaturity may be at the heart of any early memory inadequacies, particularly infantile amnesia." (Howe, 2000:9). Hence

there are factors affect infantile amnesia happened for almost individuals and give impact to the emergence of autobiographical memories during childhood.

Pillemer and White [...] suggested that infantile amnesia could best be understood in terms of the development of two distinct memory systems. The first system, a primitive one present at birth, would store fragmentary information about experience, emotional associations, learned routines, and generic representations of past experiences. The contents of this system are expressed behaviorally, not verbally, and are elicited by contextual and affective cues. The second system, one that support autobiographical memories, develops slowly over the preschool years and contains information specific to events (e.g., time and place). (Howe,2000:86)

## 4. Childhood Memories Are Easily to be Interfered

A study result has shown that memory of children during preschool years – early school ages are easily to be interfered "not only in the experimental condition [...]" but also in more naturalistic settings with emotional events"(Howe,2000:43). Similar to adults who experience simple forgetting, children also need to forget the information that interferes their learning of new information in everyday circumstances, Bjorklund states "It may be helpful to extinguish old commands before learning the new ones associated with the change or upgrade" (Howe, 2000:41).

In the preschool years – school ages, children encode, store, and retrieve all the information they know. The younger children are noted have high competences in memory performance. They have an ability to retrieve information better than the older. Unfortunately, those information which are stored earlier in the memory can be easily interfered by new information which are stored later in the memory. In contrast, the older children have more knowledge than the younger. They can retrieve all the information they store earlier and later in the memory. Eventhough they are noted have lower competence in memory performance than the younger.

The theory of early memory development and its characteristic that have explained previously, now is updated and developed by a French psychologist, Patrick Estrade. He examines the emotional dimension of childhood memories and how they relate to one's present life (Estrade, 2006:xi). The following paragraphs will emphasize several points of childhood memories by Estrade.

Estrade found that childhood memories are associated with kitschy object. Kitschy is an object of personal overinvestment, sentimental to the owner. Mostly, it has nothing to do with an artistic value but



gives excitement. It becomes an evidence of one's experience, live, and existence, particularly in the childhood. Kitschy object can be various things, except ashes and tombs. Kitschy object usually is reputed to be a treasure for the owner. Because it is sentimental for them. (Estrade, 2006:14) "Childhood memories are like the stamp of signature and personality that individual experience them alone and they will never belong to others" (Estrade, 2006:8).

The second point that will be emphasized is a link between past experiences within the family sphere, community and future adulthood. Foster believes that one's future life is a reflection of the past experiences (Foster, 2010:4). It is because recollections of childhood have fundamental information that will bring impact through to adulthood. Family as the core sphere for the child holds important role to this. Members of family generally share and shape personal experiences with the child. So, the child learns the world firstly from the family range and later assimilates himself into community life. Thus life has link to the individual experiences have with the family and community.

### **Childhood Memories Provide Reliable Information About Child's Relationship With the Family**

By knowing childhood memories, children can acknowledge their origin and roots, also build the close relationship with the family. In a classic case, when people try to recollect memories of childhood they will begin first talking about an intimate setting, such as home. Recollection of experiences they had in the home with mother, father, brother or sister come up into their memory unexpectedly. Even it is not the case for all people, but almost of them think about the childhood memories as same as thinking about either good or bad recollections they had in the home.

Mother – child dyad has gained and formed since the baby was in mother's uterus. Even the babies still were not able to see their mother's face, they gain feelings for their mother through the sensation of mother's made by her touch, voice, and feeling she has for them. These sensations must be recorded in baby's brain when they were still inside her womb. Dominique Simonnet expresses her regret and writes

If only he could describe his metamorphoses, the swarming of cells deep within his tissues, if he could explain what he felt, remember the birth of life. But the first nine months of his existence will remain in the shadows of his memory. When he comes into the light, he will lose all memory of his stay deep within the uterine cave (as cited in Estrade, 2006:52).

The best part is the baby now can meet their mother. By baby - mother physical contact, skin to skin and look at each other in the outside world, baby found their place. The time when the baby look at mother's gaze, they will suddenly know who are they. Since this period, they will gain new memories they experience with the mother for years later.

Similar to mother's touch sensation and voice, baby in the uterus can sense their father's caress and voice. Even the father does not experience the pregnancy of nine months, still their voice can be heard and later recognized by the baby. Didier Dumas, a psychoanalyst, gives his assertion to this issue,"whether the father strokes his wife's belly or talks to the baby, the fetus sense the contact via the vibrations produced by the caress or voice even before it has a functioning auditory system."(Estrade, 2006:54-55) After the time of birth, the child seeks out that his father protecting, while the mother nourishing. Both of them adore and care about the child since he was a baby and until ever. It explains the child close relationship with mother and father. After the child existence in their life, mother and father experience and share their full affection and tenderness moments with the child. Thus, child gains the precious childhood memories and experiences the childhood period within the happiness of family atmosphere.

Not only mother and father – child dyad, but brother or sister relationship also shows a valuable sign of family atmosphere. Sibling relationship contains memories of interacting and playing together with brother or sister. Estrade found that "Being brother and sister means being together almost all the time, especially if siblings share a bedroom."(Estrade, 2006:62). By sharing the bedroom, childhood memories contains a lot of moments together. Through siblings, particularly the older one, Estrade adds that "a child may often seek the understanding, tenderness, affection, admiration, rapport, and support." (Estrade, 2006:61-62).

### **METHOD**

The data source of this study is a novel by Khaled Hosseini titled *And the Mountains Echoed*, published by RIVERHEAD BOOKS, Penguin Group (USA) LLC, New York, 2013. The data is in the form of phrases, clauses, sentences, and paragraphs that represent childhood memories of Pari, whether from author's description or other characters dialogue in the novel. The data is collected with the library method. It uses intensive or close reading technique to find quotations which represent the idea of childhood memories of Pari. The references contribute in this study are taken from library and internet sources which support the data analysis. The are some steps in procedure of analysing the data. First,

reading the novel to determine the topic of the study. Then, highlighting the conflict, monologue, and dialogue in the novel. Thirdly, formulating two main problems to be discussed. After that, stating the two main problems that have formulated, they are childhood memories and the impact on Pari. The next step is, doing the close reading to get the quotations for the data in analysis. Then, reading the concept and theory related to the topic of the study, they are concept of memory and theory of childhood memories by Mark L. Howe and Patrick Estrade. After that, analysing the childhood memories issues by applying the both theories of childhood memories by Mark L. Howe and Patrick Estrade to the data. Finally, concluding the discussion of childhood memories study which is in line to the problems.

## ANALYSIS

The old Pari does not have any idea about her childhood memories, particularly the recollections of her past life in Shadbagh with her original family that she has left. It is difficult for Pari to recollect her own childhood memories during preschool years. Hence those childhood recollections are mostly depicted from other characters who are older than her at the time she is 4. They are Abdullah and uncle Nabi who are able to recall childhood memories of Pari specifically. While, the depiction of childhood memories during the Pari's school age will be depicted from Pari's own perspective. It is because school age child has known how to select the important and useful information for them, then encode and retain it into the long term memory store for the later use of retrieval.

From the bed of the wagon, Pari's hand quickly slipped into Abdullah's. She was looking up at him, her eyes liquid, and she was smiling her gap toothed smile like no bad thing would ever befall her so long as he stood at her side. (Hosseini, 2013:19)

This quotation is a depiction of Pari's childhood memories from Abdullah's perspective. This memory, Pari experiences along with her brother and father in Shadbagh. Pari is four at that time and her memory is more immature than Abdullah's. Old Pari does not remember this event at all. Abdullah and little Pari share this event together when they are having journey to Kabul city with the father. "The information as stored early in life tends to be retained for shorter periods of time [...]" (Howe, 2000:81). As the claim of Howe, this childhood recollection of Pari is decayed rapidly from her long term retention as she grows up.

Childhood memories are characterized by the depth, emotion, and honesty of child's heart (Estrade, 2006:7). From the quotation Pari has shown the depth and emotion

of child's heart. *'Pari's hand quickly slipped into Abdullah's'* demonstrates a feeling of worry being apart, Pari does not want to be separated from her brother. As soon as Abdullah reaches the wagon, Pari grabs his brother's hand quickly and dramatically. *'She was looking up at him, her eyes liquid, and she was smiling her gap toothed smile'* from this quotation, it can be known that the tears of Pari drop fast and it follows with her smile. She feels very happy and comfort being so close with her brother.

*'like no bad thing would ever befall her so long as he stood at her side'* implies that Pari is a naive little girl. The memories of childhood can be full of emotion and honesty, it is because children are naive. Childhood memories absolutely characterized by the depth, emotion and honesty of child's heart (Estrade, 2006:7). Pari feels safe whenever near to her brother. Eventhough there is the father along with her in the journey, but Pari still wants Abdullah join with them in the journey. Hence, it is not possible to take Pari to Kabul without Abdullah. Finally, the father gives up and allows Abdullah to join into their journey.

When she was young, Pari remembers, she had been all questions. Do I have cousins in Kabul, Maman? Do I have aunts and uncles? And grandparents, do I have a grand – pere and a grand – maman? How come they never visit? Can we write them a letter? Please, can we visit them? (Hosseini, 2013:237)

In this quotation, 20-year-old Pari recalls her memories during the school age, she has asked her mother about other family members' existence so many times, but Nila has told her nothing. This recollection is categorized as autobiographical memory because it is related to the personal past events of Pari. "autobiographical memory, by definition, is memory for information and events pertaining to the self [...]" (Howe, 2000:89). Moreover, Pari is able to recollect this autobiographical memory because she has passed the period of infantile amnesia at that time. Eventhough Pari is still a 10 year-old girl, but her memory is developing. The memory of this event is well encoded and retained in her long term memory of Pari.

From the quotation it can be recognized that Pari also does not remember about her childhood memories during preschool years. In 1958, Nila takes her to Paris when she is 6. Pari is unable to access her past childhood memories because until she reaches old age she never heard about the stories of her childhood events and other family members' existence. K Nelson and Fivush have claimed that "autobiographical memory starts and infantile amnesia dissipates only when children share their experiences with others linguistically"

(Howe,2000:87). 'Maman' her new mother keeps all the information about Pari's childhood in Shadbagh; right after little Pari arrives and joins the Wahdati family. Pari's autobiographical memories during preschool years are absent. It is due to the immaturity of child's memory and infantile amnesia. Hence, the recollections of childhood during preschool years of Pari are not retained for longer period in her long term memory store.

She remembers him chasing her once through a room. Rolling her around on a carpet, tickling her soles and belly. She remembers the smell of his lavender soap and the shine of his high forehead, his long fingers. His oval – shaped lapis cuff links, the crease of his suit pants. She can see the dust motes they had kicked up together off the carpet. (Hosseini, 2013:237)

Pari recalls this childhood recollection when she is twenties. The quotation depicts a past event of Pari shares with her new father, Suleman Wahdati. This is categorized as autobiographical memory. As Howe states that "autobiographical memory, by definition, is memory for information and events pertaining to the self [...]"(Howe,2000:89). Pari reaches school age at the time of that event happened. Her memory of the event with Mr. Wahdati retains in her memory for a long time period. This memory is well encoded and retained in the autobiographical memory. It is because Pari has passed the period of infantile amnesia.

In the quotation, it is depicted that Pari is able to remember the activities she experiences with Mr Wahdati. 'She remembers him chasing her once through a room. Rolling her around on a carpet, tickling her soles and belly'. Those details have retained in the long term memory of Pari, particularly in the autobiographical memory. Moreover, "the greater the background knowledge about the to – be encoded information the better that information is remembered" (Howe, 2000:48). Pari's knowledge is developing and her memory is less immature than before.

'she remembers the smell of his lavender soap and the shine of his high forehead,[...] She can see the dust motes they had kicked up together off the carpet'. These sentences involve the sensory memory of little Pari, the smell and sight senses. Sensory memory occurs in "[...] stimuli received through the five senses of sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch, which are retained accurately [...]" ([http://www.human-memory.net/types\\_sensory.html](http://www.human-memory.net/types_sensory.html)).

Pari can memorize lavender scent of Suleman Wahdati's soap because she smells it often; everytime she plays together with him. Pari and Mr. Wahdati almost spend lots of time together. Moreover, Mr. Wahdati stays at home and do his work as a painter. This sensory memory from her smell sense can be remembered by Pari. It is

because the lavender scent of her father that she has smelled and knew for along time stimulates her long term memory. Hence Pari's long term memory retain that lavender scent. In the adulthood, lavender scent becomes a sign of Suleman Wahdati's existence. Thus, whenever she unintentionally smells lavender scent somewhere, her long term memory will retrieve the recollections of those experiences and will miss her father.

### Impact of Childhood Memories on Pari

Undeniably, for most adult it is difficult to recall their childhood memories during before school age. It is not only due to the immaturity of child's memory to encode and retain recollections of specific events in the long term memory, but also there are lots of new important and more useful information that need to be stored in child's memory. Hence the changes in the child's memory cannot be avoided. Moreover, the researchers of early memory development agree that a phenomenon called as infantile amnesia is happened to each individual.

According to Estrade,"sometimes buried memories must be recalled so that they can be put away for good"(Estrade, 2006:47). For this claim, it can be realized that childhood memories are almost decayed in every individual's memory, include the character of Pari in *And the Mountains Echoed* novel. Those childhood memories which are forgotten by Pari actually still remain in the depth of her memory, but unfortunately they are unclear and blurred. It because Pari never gains her autobiographical memories through interchanges with her new family, Wahdati. So the childhood memories of her become invisible, unclear, and cannot be accessed during adulthood.

Personal experiences in the past can affect someone afterwards. The impact of them are the reflection from the past recollections (Foster, 2010:4) particularly the reminiscences during the childhood. Pari is not able to access her childhood memories, which are definitely buried inside in the depth of her long term retention. Most of them are recollections from her hometown, Shadbagh and her early family before she lives with Wahdati couple in city of Kabul. Pari's life becomes so confusing when she recognize something goes wrong and gone from her life. She tries so hard to solve her puzzled life. There are the times when Pari feels uncomfortable, sad, and lonely even she lives with her mother, Nila Wahdati. Sometimes she feels that there is something incorrect and need to be revealed, but she does not know how to solve it. The recollections of childhood definitely give impact through to her adulthood.



That there was in her life the absence of something, or someone, fundamental to her own existence. Sometimes it was vague, like a message sent across shadowy byways and vast distances, a weak signal on a radio dial, remote, warbled. Other times it felt so clear, this absence, so intimately close it made her heart lurch. (Hosseini, 2013:205)

The quotation implies the uncomfortable feeling Pari has during her adulthood. *'That there was in her life the absence of something, or someone, fundamental to her own existence'*, from this sentence it can be known that Pari is missing someone from her past. But actually she does not know, even does not realize that she has a big brother in other part of the world, living apart from her in United States. It is due to infantile amnesia she experiences during the childhood, so the childhood recollections of Abdullah's existence and all the past events she shares together with him are rapidly decayed as she gets older. Pari hopes that her wound of missing someone can be healed if her mother, Nila Wahdati, tells the stories about Pari's past experiences during childhood, particularly before school age. In contrast, Nila never says anything about childhood memories of Pari. Pari recognizes and knows that she is missing someone from her life, but it becomes more confusing because the only person that Pari expects to tell her the past event specifically never says much to Pari.

Childhood memories contain lots of sibling relationship memories of interacting and playing together with brother or sister, moreover if sibling share the bedroom (Estrade, 2006:62). By sharing the bedroom sibling gain an intimate relation one to another and it is happened to Abdullah and Pari also. The very close relationship Pari has with his brother gains since she is just an infant. *'Sometimes it was vague, like a message sent across shadowy byways and vast distances, a weak signal on a radio dial, remote, warbled'*. From the sentence, it can be implied that sometimes Pari's heart can feel the absence of her brother existence. Even though she feels it so 'vague' and 'shadowy' just like 'a weak signal', but the intimacy she has with her brother as a sibling so unconsciously never becomes weak. The blurred childhood memories with her brother gives Pari more confusion and curiosity as they are serious problems that need to be revealed soon.

Pari's character in the novel often meets the condition which she feels so sad and lonely. Again, Pari realizes the absence of someone existence which is really important for her life. The absence of childhood recollections' gives impact for Pari and it brings her to

such a great confusion which does not have end. The confusion of her continuously happens along her lifetime until she reaches the old age. The infantile amnesia makes her unable to recollect her own personal childhood memories. In addition she never gains any recollections from the childhood events through a conversation with her new parents. Thus the absence of those memories gives Pari a negative impact in her life.

Childhood memories contain fundamental information of child's relationship with the mother, father, and sibling (Estrade, 2006:26). All of children must have an intimate relationship with their family. The existence of father, mother, and siblings within the nuclear family are really significant to the child. The family as the core sphere gives role to the development of child and their memory. From the family also, childhood memories can be full of affection moments. In addition, Estrade claims that a child may often seek the understanding, tenderness, affection, admiration, rapport, and support" from the relationship they gain with the family (Estrade, 2006:61-62).

*'Other times it felt so clear, this absence, so intimately close it made her heart lurch.'* Besides give a confusion to Pari, the blurred childhood memories give a negative impact to physic of her. Everytime she thinks about the absence of someone from her life, Pari can feel that her heart beats fast so suddenly. It is caused by her intimate relationship she has built with her brother since in the very young age. Pari can realize that she is missing someone and losing him, but she neither know who she really misses nor remember him. Instead she feels her heart beats fast so suddenly and it really hurt her.

"You say you felt a presence, but I sensed only an absence. A vague pain without a source. I was like the patient who cannot explain to the doctor where it hurts, only that it does." (Hosseini, 2013:431)

The quotation expresses Pari's feeling about the effect of her vague childhood memories. From the quotation it can be known that childhood memories affect Pari's life. All of those memories during childhood in Shadbagh truly gives her a pain in her heart. *'A vague pain without a source. I was like the patient who cannot explain to the doctor where it hurts, only that it does'*. As they have stated in the sentences, Pari presupposes herself as a patient who does not know what her disease is, but only know that her body is hurt. Pari who absolutely does not know any information about her childhood only meets a confusion and feels her heart lurch, that is why she feels the pain and needs to solve her problem soon by revealing the stories beyond her childhood memories.

For a long time Pari can feel the wound inside her heart, she notices that something goes wrong in her own life and definitely torturing her heart. Moreover she does not know that the source of her problem is because losing of her big brother existence, Abdullah. She can only feel that her problem is like a puzzle that will never be solved. The connection of Pari with her family, particularly Abdullah will be forever linked, even though they live in different parts of the world. Pari will forever feel the loss of their existence. The link of family relationship is provided in childhood memories. Infantile amnesia has made Pari forget about anything from her past life in Shadbagh. Thus, she does not know and remember about her own childhood memories. Through the quotation it can be known that the forgotten childhood memories give Pari a negative impact.

"I remember almost nothing about him. What I remember, it is not his face or his voice. Only that in my life something has been missing always. Something good. Something [...] ah, I don't know what to say. That is all." (Hosseini, 2013:394)

Even though Pari does not remember his name, voice, nor his face, Pari's heart and memory always give sign as an alarm which tells her that something goes wrong, and there is someone fundamental is lost from her life. Childhood memories are rapidly decayed and easily to be interfered. Those characteristics simply make the details of events with her brother during childhood are forgotten by Pari. '*I remember almost nothing about him*', this sentence clearly demonstrates that Pari's memory does not store every detail of information about her older brother from during before school age.

Pari and Abdullah have a connection that is so solid and unbroken as siblings. Even they are separated into other parts of the planet, Pari still can feel the loss of Abdullah's figure. The memories about Abdullah have rapidly decayed from Pari's long term memory. The only thing she can recognize about her brother is the feeling of losing him. It shows that those childhood memories are meaningful for Pari, the childhood memories together with Abdullah definitely retain in the long term retention, even though they are blurred and vague as depicted in the sentences '*What I remember, it is not his face or his voice. Only that in my life something has been missing always. Something good. Something... ah, I don't know what to say. That is all*'. Pari is unable to describe her feeling of losing Abdullah's existence to her niece. The loss of her big brother existence which so hurts her cannot be explained so specifically through the words. The memory of her is not able to recollect the childhood memories, but her heart can feel the different way. Pari's heart notices a loss of Abdullah's existence. She can

feel the absence of Abdullah from her life really torturing her heart. Thus blurred childhood memories bring a certain negative impact of pain to Pari's heart.

Only that when we lost each other, Abdullah and I, it hurt him much more than me. I was the lucky one because I was protected by my youth. (Hosseini, 2013:442)

Besides the negative impacts that childhood memories bring on Pari's life. They give positive impact also on Pari. Due to the characteristic of childhood memories that rapidly decayed from the long term memory of child and easily to be interfered with the new recollections, Pari who is parted from her brother when she is a child, feels lucky that her suffering is less than her brother's. The memories of her brother are retained for a short period of time in her long term retention.

When the time goes by, Pari only feels and recognizes the absence of someone vital for her life. In addition, unknowing whose existence has lost from her life is much easier than remembering him into a deep sadness and suffering for very long time. '*... it hurt him much more than me. I was the lucky one because I was protected by my youth.*' From the quotation it can be implied that childhood memories bring another impact for Pari. It is a positive and beneficial impact for herself. If Pari's childhood memories retain for long term period in her own memory, childhood memories might torment her more than ever. They would shadow Pari's mind and heart, even the worst effect of them will make Pari's life so unhappy and pathetic. In contrast, Pari has married to a good man named Eric. They already have 3 children and they are so harmonious as a family. Even though the past experiences during Pari's childhood bring a negative impact of confusion into her mind, but they definitely do not interfere Pari's future life. Moreover she has got a good and happy life together with her husband.

"I know what I would do," Pari says.

Baba looks at her blankly.

"If I win a million dollars, I buy a house on this street. That way, we can be neighbors, you and me, and every day I come here and we watch TV together." (Hosseini, 2013:425)

A letter from uncle Nabi gives Pari an easy access to recollect her forgotten childhood memories during preschool years in Shadbagh and Kabul city. A memory of Pari asking her brother to live neighborhood comes up so unconsciously, it is shown from the quotation '*If I win a million dollars, I buy a house on this street. That way, we can be neighbors, you and me, and every day I come here and we watch TV together.*' These sentences show that Pari indirectly delivers to Abdullah that she is willing



to live neighborhood with him, as their promise several decades ago.

That memory is one of many childhood memories which pops up in Pari's mind. This memory is absolutely still remain in her long term retention, just need a little rehearsal to get it out from the depth of memory. This memory actually is interfered by any other memories that are very useful and important for Pari's survival and life. Bjorklund states "It may be helpful to extinguish old commands before learning the new ones associated with the change or upgrade" (Howe, 2000:41).

A little help to access childhood memories, as uncle Nabi did, has bring the decayed recollections back to Pari. Only remembering events of several memories childhood can be a guidance for Pari to find her lost brother and family. Now Pari has met her lovely brother and discovered her roots. She feels happy and satisfied about it. Thus the unrevealed childhood memories have brought a positive impact on Pari.

## CONCLUSION

Regarding to the data analysis that has been elaborated in the previous chapter, a conclusion can be made as the result of the study. Childhood memories as described from the character of Pari in *And the Mountains Echoed* novel depict the characteristic of childhood memories. Firstly, childhood memories are tend to be retained for a short period of time and rapidly decayed, it is due to the factor of infantile amnesia during the childhood. Besides, the work of child's memory system is still lack the maturity to support encoding, storage, and retrieval. Secondly, the recollection of childhood memories may be easily to be interfered, particularly those recollections during before school age. It is because the old recollections will be decayed and replaced by the new information children gain along their memory development. Childhood memories need to be gained in the period of retention through the interchanges between child and adult. Thirdly, childhood memories can be categorized as autobiographical memories because in this period children only interest to anything related to the self, not others. Thus, recollections of the events they gain are past personal memories.

The data analysis has shown that Pari experiences the infantile amnesia. Until she reaches the age of twenties, she does not gain any recollections from her past during childhood in Shadbagh. Pari's roots and family are in hometown, Shadbagh. Unfortunately, none of the new family member tell her about those past experiences. Hence Pari is unable to recollect her childhood memories.

The absence of information about childhood memories bring impact on Pari during adulthood. Those childhood recollections which contain the information about the family member, at first give negative impact on her, such as great confusion. Sometimes, those blurred memories in childhood lead her to the illusion. Those childhood memories definitely remain in the depth of her long term retention along her lifetime, but they are vague and unclear. Pari's heart suddenly beats so fast anytime she thinks about her forgotten childhood memories. She can feels the absence of someone from her life, but actually she does not know that she really misses her big brother. Moreover, Adult Pari becomes confuse about her own roots. She knows nothing about them all.

The negative impact of those vague childhood memories do not shadow Pari any longer just after she receives a telephone call from someone in Kabul. The positive impact of childhood memories have revealed. Childhood memories heal Pari's wound and give a satisfaction on her. Now Pari knows the truth about her life and her true family. It is because the childhood recollection that are buried somewhere in the depth of the memory pop up unconsciously.

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